

For Immediate Release
June 19, 2007

Contact: Christopher Burawa
Phone: 602.771.6526
Email: cburawa@AzArts.gov

GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO RECEIVES 2007 NATIONAL ARTS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Washington, D.C.—Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors will present Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano with the 2007 National Award for State Arts Leadership at the 75th Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors' on Sunday, June 24, in Los Angeles. The award honors an elected official who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the advancement of the arts on the state level.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano will receive the 2007 National Award for State Arts Leadership for her ambitious and committed support for the arts. During her inaugural year as governor, Governor Napolitano issued three politically risky line item vetoes that saved public funding for the arts in Arizona. Governor Napolitano, herself a high school musician and a lifelong opera fan, supports the arts not only in words and policy, but also as an avid attendee. She hosts the Governor's Arts Awards Dinner, which celebrates individuals, organizations, and corporations for their outstanding contributions to the arts in the state.

"We honor Governor Napolitano for her unwavering support for the arts and for making significant and lasting improvements to the arts landscape in the Southwest," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "Governor Napolitano has helped make the arts even more accessible in Arizona communities."

"This is a great day for Arizona," said Robert C. Booker, Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts. "Governor Napolitano truly understands the power of the arts as an economic tool, a way to educate our young people, and a path to cultural understanding across all of Arizona."

Brenda Sperduti, Executive Director of Arizona Citizens/Action for the Arts, and a former corporate executive in Phoenix, said that, "Arizona is both fortunate and proud to have Governor Janet Napolitano leading our state as well as the nation's governors on a renewed quest for innovation in America. As arts advocates, we know that ART IS THE FUEL for creativity and innovation. We anticipate a great future for the arts in Arizona due in large part to the visionary leadership of Governor Napolitano."

"Every year, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the efforts of those who believe as much as we do, that the arts are the heart of our society. Arts and culture help shape a city's quality of life, but mayors also understand the connection between the arts and business and the arts' impact on the local economy," said Tom Cochran, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, it has a record of 45 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

The Arizona Commission on the Arts, now celebrating its 41st year as the state's arts agency, seeks to ensure that there are opportunities for artists in all communities in Arizona and to ensure that arts experiences are available for all Arizonans. For more information on the Arizona Commission on the Arts, visit www.AzArts.gov.

#

Christopher Burawa
Communications Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts
417 W. Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1326
P: 602.771.6526
F: 602.256.0282